



ORIGINAL

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

OCT 6 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. William M. Lowery
2225 E. Lakeside Place, #207
Corona, CA 91719

Dear Mr. Lowery:

Thank you for your electronic mail message to President Clinton regarding a line item that has been added by your carrier to your telephone bill to recover its contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. The White House has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act). The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including low income consumers and those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms and libraries receive access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are enjoyed in urban communities.

The 1996 Act requires all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services to contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all such telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, requires such carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

No. of Copies rec'd
List A B C D E

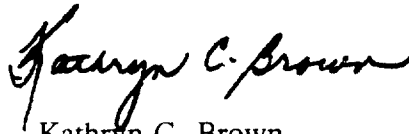
2

Mr. William M. Lowery

Page 2

Your letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest and views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kathryn C. Brown
Chief
Common Carrier Bureau

=====
Date: 08-11-98

Time: 14:14:43

Document Number : 13842
Control Number : 98-06049

B.F. :

Bureau : CCB
Assigned To : TSTEVENS

Due : 98/09/09

Modified By : CCB

Author : Clinton, William (Bill)
Organization : President
Address : White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
City/State/Zip : Washington DC 20500
Constituent : Wm Lowery
Subject : e-rate under universal services
Signature : BUREAU CHIEF
=====

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7-24-94
DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR: ACC 19

FROM: SUE J. SMITH *SJS*
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

SUBJECT: REFERRAL OF WHITE HOUSE BULK MAIL

Thank you for your continued hard work in ensuring responses to the Presidential letters and inquiries forwarded to your agency. The volume of mail that the President and Mrs. Clinton receive still remains unprecedented.

Please return any misreferrals to me at the following address:

Ms. Sue J. Smith
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 202/456-7486.

Thank you very much.

927116
1/10/1-500

From nobody@www2.whitehouse.gov Sun Jul 12 21:18:53 1998
Date: Sun, 12 Jul 1998 21:17:19 -0400
From: "William M. Lowery" <nawlinsboy@earthlink.net>
Subject: Inbound-White_House_WWW_MAIL => PRESIDENT
Apparently-to: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
To: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
Errors-to: The Postmaster <postmaster@www2.whitehouse.gov>
Reply-to: "William M. Lowery" <nawlinsboy@earthlink.net>
Message-id: <199807130117.VAA24840@www2.whitehouse.gov>

Keywords: WWW-Correspondence; ; Ask a specific question regarding
Administration policy; Taxes; Private Citizen;
Comments: Forwarded from White House WWW
Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: pool035-max12.mpop2-ca-us.dialup.earthlink.net[207.217.242.85]
BROWSER: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 4.01; Windows 98)
URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: William M. Lowery
EMAIL-ADDRESS: nawlinsboy@earthlink.net
ORGANIZATION:
RELATIONSHIP:
STREET-ADDRESS: 2225 E. Lakeside Place #207
CITY: Corona
STATE-PROVINCE: CA
ZIP-CODE: 91719
COUNTRY: USA

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Ask a specific question regarding Administration policy
TOPIC: Taxes
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen
SUBJECT: Universal Service Fund

[Message]

On my latest telephone bill I have been charged a "Universal Connectivity Charge" of 5% of my long distance telephone charges. The bill states that this charge has come from the FCC. Well, to me this is a tax. Why have I been taxed with out a vote from Congress?